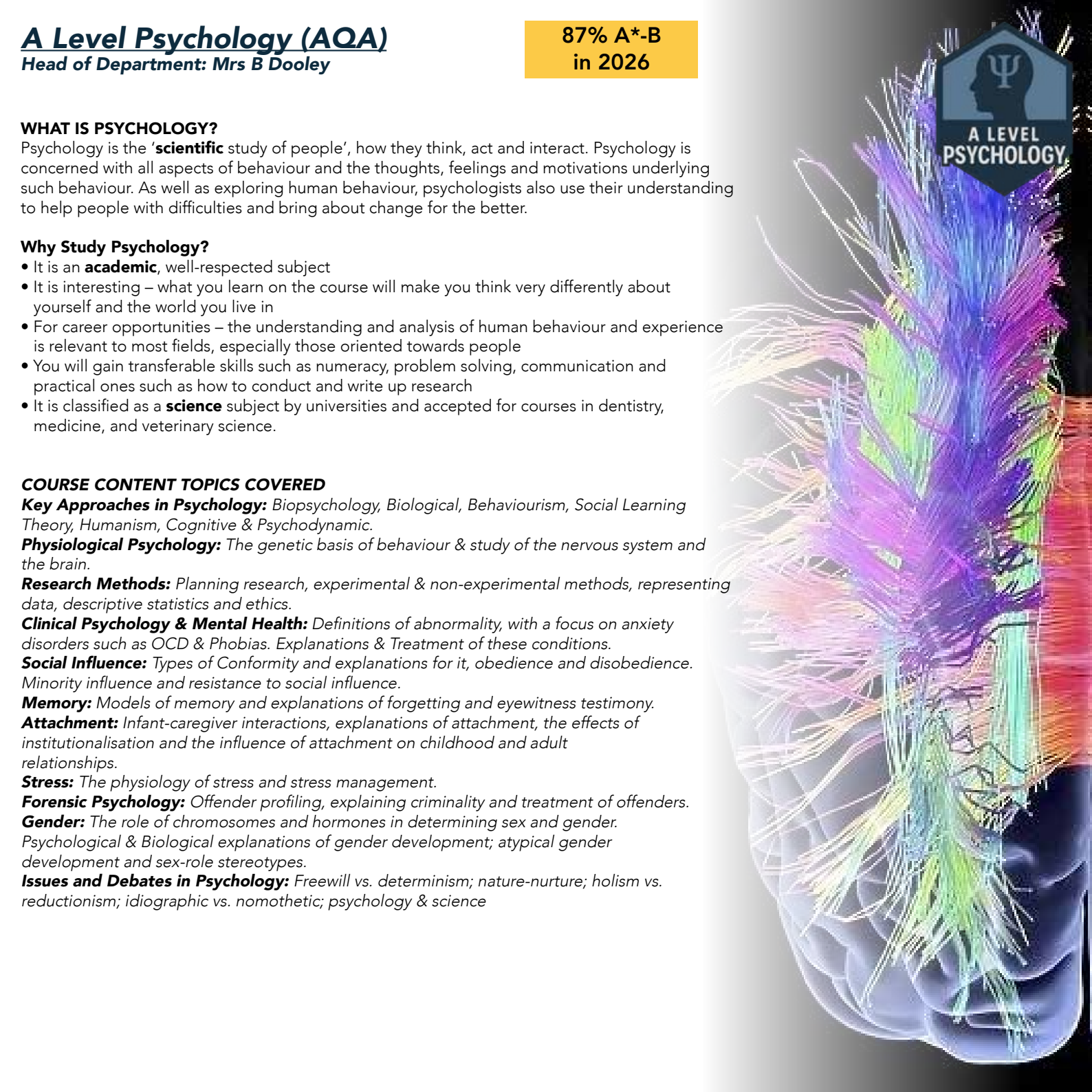
A Level Psychology (AQA)

Head of Department: Mrs B Dooley

87% A*-B in 2026



WHAT IS PSYCHOLOGY?

Psychology is the '**scientific** study of people', how they think, act and interact. Psychology is concerned with all aspects of behaviour and the thoughts, feelings and motivations underlying such behaviour. As well as exploring human behaviour, psychologists also use their understanding to help people with difficulties and bring about change for the better.

Why Study Psychology?

- It is an **academic**, well-respected subject
- It is interesting – what you learn on the course will make you think very differently about yourself and the world you live in
- For career opportunities – the understanding and analysis of human behaviour and experience is relevant to most fields, especially those oriented towards people
- You will gain transferable skills such as numeracy, problem solving, communication and practical ones such as how to conduct and write up research
- It is classified as a **science** subject by universities and accepted for courses in dentistry, medicine, and veterinary science.

COURSE CONTENT TOPICS COVERED

Key Approaches in Psychology: *Biopsychology, Biological, Behaviourism, Social Learning Theory, Humanism, Cognitive & Psychodynamic.*

Physiological Psychology: *The genetic basis of behaviour & study of the nervous system and the brain.*

Research Methods: *Planning research, experimental & non-experimental methods, representing data, descriptive statistics and ethics.*

Clinical Psychology & Mental Health: *Definitions of abnormality, with a focus on anxiety disorders such as OCD & Phobias. Explanations & Treatment of these conditions.*

Social Influence: *Types of Conformity and explanations for it, obedience and disobedience. Minority influence and resistance to social influence.*

Memory: *Models of memory and explanations of forgetting and eyewitness testimony.*

Attachment: *Infant-caregiver interactions, explanations of attachment, the effects of institutionalisation and the influence of attachment on childhood and adult relationships.*

Stress: *The physiology of stress and stress management.*

Forensic Psychology: *Offender profiling, explaining criminality and treatment of offenders.*

Gender: *The role of chromosomes and hormones in determining sex and gender. Psychological & Biological explanations of gender development; atypical gender development and sex-role stereotypes.*

Issues and Debates in Psychology: *Freewill vs. determinism; nature-nurture; holism vs. reductionism; idiographic vs. nomothetic; psychology & science*